



Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP
Secretary of State

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Ros Jones
The Mayor
Doncaster MBC
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19 September 2014

Dear Ms Jones,

Direction under section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1999 and section 497A(4) and (4B) of the Education Act 1996 to Doncaster Borough Council

I am writing, on behalf of myself and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to issue Doncaster Borough Council with a Direction under section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1999 and section 497A(4) and (4B) of the Education Act 1996. The Direction (enclosed) takes account of the Council's response to the consultation which ended on 4 August 2014.

The Direction requires Doncaster Borough Council to enter into and comply with the contract setting out the services agreement between the Council and the Doncaster Children's Services Trust. The Direction requires that the contract be signed no later than 30 September 2014.

The issuing of this Direction and signing of the services delivery contract mark the conclusion of a significant programme of work to set up the Doncaster Children's Services Trust. I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your hard work in engaging with the Commissioner, Alan Wood, and my Department to achieve this. I do not underestimate the significant effort that has been involved.

The Doncaster Children's Services Trust is the first of its kind - an independent not-for-profit company focused entirely on improving children's social care services for the children and families of Doncaster. I am confident that the Trust is the right model to drive the rapid improvement that is needed and it will be watched closely as it takes forward its mission over the coming months and years.

I am copying this letter to Jo Miller, Alan Wood and Colin Hilton.

Yours sincerely

Nicky

Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP